

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

The present invention features a piezoelectric dispensing apparatus, which can include a removable reservoir and a piezoelectric dispensing tube or may provide for removably attaching the piezoelectric dispensing tube to the reservoir. The invention also provides a reagent vessel for use with a piezoelectric device which provides filtering within the vessel.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 33, as follows:

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a schematic diagram of a piezoelectric dispensing apparatus 10. The apparatus defines an array of four plungers 12 below which are aligned a series of four seats configured to receive and support reagent vessels 20 located below the plungers. The apparatus also includes associated drive mechanisms for moving the plungers vertically up and down, towards and away from the seats. Each of the plungers defines a central through bore 14 (refer to Figure [[9]] 4) which can be connected to a source of vacuum and/or pressure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 28, as follows:

The foot portion 32 serves two functions. It allows the reagent vessel to be placed on a laboratory bench and prevents the valve 24 from touching the bench surface and opening. It also acts as a sealing surface between the reagent vessel and a secondary filter holder shown in Figure [[2e]] 2c.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20, as follows:

On completion of dispensing, the reagent vessel may be released from the apparatus by means of a small downward motion of the plunger initiated by the pressing of a release button. The additional pressure on the flared portion causes the breaking of the rupture lines 40 preventing re-use of the reagent vessel. The plunger then rises as shown in Figure [[8]] 4 and returns to the top of the apparatus. The used reagent vessel can be removed and discarded. Once the reagent vessel is released from the apparatus, the valve at the bottom of the reagent vessel[[,]] will close preventing any unused solution from leaking out of the reagent vessel.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 29, as follows:

The operation of the plunger is illustrated in more detail in Figure [[9]]4. At rest, the plunger position is controlled by an indexing cam mechanism which comprises a star shape control element and a smaller index element. The index element is acted on a sprung detent which is shaped to give the cam a tendency to return to the indexed position. The cam and detent mechanism are mounted on a pivoting arm which is held in a default position by a spring.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 14, as follows:

Figure [[10]]5 illustrates a second embodiment of a reagent vessel 110 including an open topped reservoir 120 similar to reservoir 20 of the first reagent vessel. However in the reagent vessel 110 the closure means closing the base of the reservoir is a septum 121 disposed below the filter 122 rather than a valve. There is no integral finger grip.